

**Statement of Jennifer Harrison, Private Citizen
Legislative District 37B**

**Testimony urging an UNFAVORABLE VOTE to Senate Bill 745
Protective Headgear Requirement for Motorcycle Riders- Exception
Senate Judicial Proceedings
March 15, 2022**

Dear Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

It is with deep sadness to hear that a bill is being considered that would allow motorcycle drivers to drive without a helmet! I am even more concerned that my own state senator is co-sponsoring it.

I'd like to share our story and the impact it has had and will forever have on us.

June 6, 2014 was a beautiful sunny day. My 24-year-old son, Grant, was driving his motorcycle to his girlfriend's house just a few miles away when a large deer landed on him. The doe was not in the road...she was running from a field on the right side of the road. He sustained multiple injuries and was airlifted to Shock Trauma where he remained for 58 days before being transported to a rehabilitation facility closer to home for another month.

This young man never rode at night and always respected and obeyed the laws and safety regulations enforced.

My husband and I got the call while we were at church and immediately left to go to the scene. The chopper was in the air when we arrived and multiple first responders and state police were there to explain what had occurred and what the next steps were. The Maryland State Police did a reenactment of the scene thinking it would likely result in a fatality.

We drove to Shock Trauma praying while the doctors and paramedics on the chopper communicated.

The horrific sight we saw upon arrival at Shock Trauma is still very vivid in our minds...

Grant's first operation took place almost immediately and lasted 14 hours. He had a fractured skull, a severe TBI, bleeding on the brain and severe injuries to his limbs and as the days went on, Grant experienced multiple setbacks including strokes, hemorrhaging, and amputation. He went into surgery a total of forty three times and each time they told us, there is a chance that he would not make it out. The odds were constantly against us.

The truth is, as careful as a motorcyclist may be, they simply have limited protection around them. True accidents do occur, and the least our state can do is require them to wear a helmet.

Thankfully, my son was wearing a helmet, and that is the only reason he is alive today.

43 surgeries, 58 days at Shock Trauma, and more than 7 years later, Grant walks, talks and lives because he had a helmet on.

A helmet saved Grant's life and requiring helmets on a motorcycle will continue to save others.

I urge an unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 745.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Harrison

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